

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Educators Get WIRED

(HELENA) – The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education has released a request for proposal to the nine colleges eligible for Montana’s New Homestead Act: Workforce Innovation and Regional Economic Development (WIRED). The institutions must reside within the 32 Montana counties designated for these federal funds. The million dollar annual three-year allocation must be used to provide job training or assist in the development and implementation of model activities related to the bioproducts industry.

These educational grants encourage the colleges to partner with other colleges, K-12 schools, community based organizations, businesses, and entrepreneurs. The eligible colleges include: MSU-Northern, Miles Community College, Dawson Community College, Blackfeet Community College, Fort Peck Community College, Chief Dull Knife College, Fort Belknap College, Little Big Horn College, and Stone Child College.

The RFP is available on line: <http://www.montana.edu/wochewd/>. Questions can be directed to David Hall at the Commissioner’s Office dhall@ocche.montana.edu or 406-444-0608.

The purpose of Montana’s New Homestead Act: Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative is to establish a globally competitive bioenergy and bioproducts cluster in central and eastern Montana. Partnerships will be encouraged to develop a sustainable industry in these rural areas. High paying jobs and the increase of farm income will provide stability to the economics of the region.

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